

Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) Process for the liquid impervious sealing of one or more of small crevices, chinks, capillaries and openings in a wall of a housing ~~walls of housings~~ which occur due to an assembly of at least two structural components, wherein at least certain gas permeability has to be obtained, said method comprising the step of providing a hydrophobic ~~hydrophilic~~ coating on the housing wall at least in the area of the one or more of crevices, chinks, openings and capillaries to prevent moisture from an exterior of said housing wall from entering the one or more of crevices, chinks, openings and capillaries.

2. (previously presented) Process according to claim 1 for the liquid impervious sealing of housing chambers, compartments, sections which are closed against the exterior and at which a certain gas exchange with the environment has to be guaranteed, wherein, in the area of the chamber, the compartment or the section crevices, and the one or more chinks, capillaries, and openings which exist within the housing wall, are provided with a hydrophobic coating.

3. (previously presented) Process according to one of the claims 1 or 2, wherein the housing or casing wall or its surface in the area of the one or more crevices,

chinks, capillaries and openings, shall be coated with hydrophobic nano-particles.

4. (previously presented) Process according to one of the claims 1 or 2, wherein the hydrophobic coating, by using hydrophobic nano-particles, is produced by a so called Sol-Gel process.

5. (previously presented) Process according to one of the claims 1 or 2, wherein the hydrophobic coating is achieved by coating of the housing wall with the aid of hydrated silanes or hydro-silicones or fluorine containing polycondensates.

6. (previously presented) Process according to one of the claims 1 or 2, wherein the coating is executed by using a low temperature plasma evaporation process, the coating of a compact polymer layer is achieved by depositing a fluorine containing polymer on the housing wall.

7. (previously presented) Use of the process according to one of the claims 1 to 2 for the liquid impervious sealing of the one or more crevices, chinks and capillary openings in housing walls of hearing aid devices.

8. (previously presented) Use of the process according to one of the claims 1 to 2 for the liquid impervious sealing of a battery compartment in a hearing aid device.

9. (withdrawn) Housing of electrical or electronic devices, containing crevices, capillary openings or chinks which have to be sealed against penetration of humidity but

not against penetration of gas, characterised in that the housing wall in the area of the crevices, capillaries or chinks has a hydrophobic coating.

10. (withdrawn) Housing according to claim 9, characterised in that the hydrophobic coating is such that the minimal contact angle to water at room temperature is at least 100.degree. C.

11. (withdrawn) Housing according to one of the claims 9 or 10, characterised in that the hydrophobic coating has a layer thickness which is at least 5 micrometers.

12. (withdrawn) Battery compartment of a hearing aid device, characterised in that at the area of the housing wall of the hearing aid device near to or at the battery compartment is provided with a hydrophobic coating.

13. (previously presented) Process according to claim 3, wherein the hydrophobic coating, by using hydrophobic nano-particles, is produced by a Sol-Gel process.

14. (previously presented) Use of the process according to claim 5 for the liquid impervious sealing of the one or more of crevices, chinks and capillary openings in housing walls of a hearing aid device.

15. (previously presented) Use of the process according to claim 5 for the liquid impervious sealing of a battery compartment in a hearing aid device.

16. (previously presented) Use of the process

according to claim 6 for the liquid impervious sealing of the one or more crevices, chinks and capillary openings in housing walls of a hearing aid device.

17. (previously presented) Use of the process according to claim 6 for the liquid impervious sealing of a battery compartment in a hearing aid device.

18. (currently amended) Process for the liquid impervious sealing of small gaps between components of a hearing aid device, said method comprising the steps of:

assembling at least two components of said hearing aid device together to form a surface having said small gaps, wherein said surface is gas permeable;

coating at least a portion of said surface in the area of said gaps with a hydrophobic ~~hydrophilic~~ coating to prevent penetration of a liquid into said gaps from an exterior of said surface, wherein

said portion of said surface remains gas permeable with said hydrophobic coating thereon.

19. (previously presented) Process according to claim 18, wherein the hydrophobic coating is achieved by coating of the portion with the aid of hydrated silanes or hydro-silicones or fluorine containing polycondensates.

20. (new) Process according to claim 18 wherein said surface is provided at an exterior of said hearing aid device, and wherein said coating is applied to the exterior of said surface.

21 (new) Process according to claim 1, wherein said coating is applied to an exterior surface of said housing wall.